

# Relationships & Sex Education Policy



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# Relationships & Sex Education Policy



This policy relates to the Senior School and should be read in conjunction with the following policies and other related documents:

- PSHE policy (whole school)
- Equal Opportunities Policy (whole school)
- SMSC Policy (whole school)
- Welfare & Safeguarding Policy (whole school)
- All PSE Schemes of Work (Senior and Junior)
- Relationships and Sex Programme of Study (covering Primary and Secondary Education)
- Yearly Overview of PD Mentor Sessions (Senior School)
- Lectures for Life (Senior School)

**Last reviewed: April 2024**

**Next review: April 2025**

**Person responsible for review: Head of Senior School**

In line with government guidance, parents have the right to consultation on the schools Relationships and Sex Education Policy. Invitation for consultation will go out in the weeks leading up to each review.

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## RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

### **Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)**

Relationship and Sex Education is compulsory from September 2020 and an educational entitlement of all pupils and, as such, should form an integral part of each young person's development. All issues are treated in a manner which is appropriate to the age and development of the pupil.

We aim:

- to present information to the students in an objective and balanced manner so as to enable students to comprehend the range of social attitudes and behaviour in present day society;
- to encourage students to become aware not only of moral but also the legal implications of their codes of behaviour, as far as this knowledge can be introduced in ways appropriate to the age group in question;
- to enable students to consider their own attitudes and to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes they will adopt both while they are at school, at home and in adult life;
- to develop self-esteem, self-respect and a positive self-image so that an understanding of a sensitivity to different lifestyles needs and feelings of others is gained;
- to help students understand and manage risk in relationships by making informed and considered decisions;
- to develop an understanding of the characteristics of positive, stable relationships in different contexts, including online;
- to provide an appropriate vocabulary for discussing health and social issues;
- to encourage consideration for others regardless of gender, race, religion, disability and sexual orientation;
- to encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour;
- to provide support and information for young people and their parents so that they can get further help if needed.

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## Programme of Study:

Relationships and Sex Education is taught across all year groups from Reception to Upper Sixth. In each year group topics are taught at an age appropriate level. In Year 10, an external organisation (Brook Wirral), give a workshop on Relationships and Sex which has been very successful.

Specific detail can be found in the following documents:

- Relationships and Sex Programme of Study
- PSE and PD Schemes of Work

## Junior School Programme of Study:

The Grange Junior School's main focus is relationships and the characteristics of positive and healthy relationships. Pupils are taught about friendships, family relationships and relationships with other children and with adults.

This programme of study begins with Reception as pupils are taught to take turns, treat each other with kindness, respect and consideration. The pupils are taught the importance of being honest, permission seeking and giving, and the concept of personal privacy. Giving one another personal space and establishing boundaries is key from an early age.

The principles of positive relationships also apply online and throughout the Junior School pupils are taught online safety appropriate to their age group.

Staff are very mindful when teaching about families as pupils' circumstances may vary and require sensitivity. The school recognises that families can include; single parent families, adoptive parents, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents.

Pupils are encouraged to develop their own characteristics and personal attributes. Through our school values children are taught to be; caring and respectful, straightforward, wholehearted, ambitious, adventurous and supportive.

Through the PSHE Scheme of Work, all children in the Junior School are taught 6 key units which are built upon and developed each year appropriate to the age of the child.

These units include: Me and My Relationships, Value and Difference, Keeping Myself Safe, Rights and Responsibilities, Being My Best, Growing and Changing.

Specific detail can be found in the following documents:

- PSHE Schemes of Work
- Content of Nurses' Puberty Talks with Years 5 and 6

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## **Promotion of Fundamental British Values**

As part of the school's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of pupils, many of the topics covered by the PSHE curriculum actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different and beliefs.

For further information, please refer to the Grange School PSHE & PD Policy and the Grange School SMSC Policy.

## **Character Curriculum**

The DfE Character Curriculum is a framework which supports the development of essential skills and attributes within the context of PSHE and SMSC. These skills and attributes are integral to developing and maintaining healthy relationships. The aim is to provide opportunities to develop the Character Curriculum within the context of existing PSHE and PD planned lessons about sex and relationships.

An audit of where the Character Curriculum fits into PSHE and PD learning at the Senior School can be found at: S:\Departments\PSHE\Dept Admin\PSHE Policy & Supporting Documents

## **LGBT Awareness**

Diversity and inclusivity has been identified as a development strand for the school, with the Director for Post-16 Education as the SLT link. As part of the school's RSE programme, we deliver a curriculum which aims to be inclusive for all pupils, and in doing so, we cover topics such as same-sex families, gender identity, sexual orientation and homophobia. Focus is on developing an understanding of and respect for diversity within relationships.

Equality Ambassadors is a student led enrichment group led by two Pastoral members of staff. They are currently working with the Proudtrust and The School of Sexuality Education to create a specific LGBTQ group for students across the Senior School.

In the Junior School, through the 'Valuing Difference' and 'Me and My Relationships' units, LGBTQ+ Awareness is covered at an age appropriate level. Staff promote positive role modelling in these areas.

## **Other Specific Issues**

The following issues may occur as part of Sex and Relationship Education. Staff, parents and pupils need to be aware of the school's procedures.

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## **(a) Confidentiality and advice**

As part of our safeguarding education, we make pupils aware that any information we receive that suggests children may be at risk of harm cannot be kept confidential. In RSE lessons we encourage pupils to talk about issues and not bring personal stories into the lesson. (Refer to the Welfare & Safeguarding Policy for more details)

The following procedures will be adhered to by all adults:

- **Disclosure of sexual/physical abuse** – the school’s child protection procedure will be invoked (see policy)
- **Disclosure of pregnancy or advice regarding contraception** – professional information and advice can be sought from the school nurse.  
The school will always encourage pupils to talk with their parent(s) first. If this takes place subsequent responsibility, then lies with the parent(s).  
If pupils refrain from telling the parent(s) they can seek support from the school nurse who will refer them to a health professional.
- We recognise that in a Junior School setting questions, from children, of a sexual nature may arise following RSE sessions and staff need to answer them in an age-appropriate manner. For this reason, all staff will be undergoing training in this area within the next academic year.

## **(b) Parental Partnership**

Under the Education Act 1993 parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education programme. Parents wishing to exercise that right may make an appointment to meet the Head to discuss the issues. They are under no obligation to do so. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in later sex and relationship education without parental approval.

In the Junior School, Parents will receive a letter during the Summer Term directing them to a brief overview of topics covered within the PSHE curriculum in each year group on Firefly. Parents will also be made aware that they hold the right to withdraw their child from aspects of the RSE curriculum. We will encourage parents who are considering withdrawing their child to discuss this with the Head Teacher in the first instance.

Any child within three terms of their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday has their own right to choose whether they engage in aspects of the RSE curriculum.

## **Evaluation, Monitoring and Review**

The Relationship and Sex Education programme within PSHE will be monitored by the Head of PSHE in consultation with the PSHE teachers, Deputy Head and Head. From time to time in PSHE lessons students are asked for their evaluation of the programme, where considered relevant, and their suggestions may be incorporated in the subsequent year's programme.

# Relationships & Sex Education Policy



In line with government guidance, parents have the right to consultation on the schools Relationships and Sex Education Policy. Invitation for consultation will go out in the weeks leading up to each review.

There are elements of Sex and Relationship Education within the Biology and Religious Studies curriculum which will be evaluated through the subject curricular systems.

## **Dissemination of the Policy**

The policy will be available to all staff on Firefly.

Parents will be able to see the policy on the school website/firefly or they can request a hardcopy from the school office.